


HORSFORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer
of Health, for Year
Ended 31st December,
1918.



HORSFORTH :
GRIMSHAW TEALE, " ADVERTISER " OFFICE,
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The Urban District of Horsforth.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1918.

To the Chairman and Councillors.

The estimate of the population, given by the Local Government Board for the past year, is 9,248 for the Birth rate, and 8,254 for the Death rate. The difference being due to those belonging to the district who are still in His Majesty's Service.

Births registered in the district during the year numbered 101; 51 males and 50 females. There were **no** illegitimate births. The resulting birth-rate is 10·9 per 1,000 of the population per annum, the lowest ever recorded for the district. For many years past, the birth-rate has been slowly declining, but since the commencement of the war, this has been most marked. Below are the birth-rates for the past five years—

1914—18·5 1915—17·9 1916—14·3 1917—12·7 1918—10·9

The birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1918 is 17·7 per 1,000.

Deaths.—105 were registered, 58 of these being males and 47 females. 10 of these deaths occurred in the Dean Head Sanatorium, and belong, therefore, to outside areas. However, residents of this district have died in other areas, so that the Registrar General, after making corrections for these, estimates the death-rate at 13·2. Actually, the death-rate of those registered in our district is 12·7. Taking into consideration the terrific epidemic of Influenza, this district suffered in common

with the rest of the Country, there is every reason to congratulate ourselves on the small death-rate for the year. Below are the statistics relating to the death-rate for the past five years—

1914—9·3 1915—13·7 1916—14·1 1917—13·5 1918—12·7

The corresponding death-rate for England and Wales is 17·6 per 1,000. Despite the many adverse conditions caused by the war, these death-rates compare very favourably with those of any previous years, and we may take it for granted that the rationing of food has not been so detrimental to health as popular opinion would have it, particularly when during the same period the whole community has been working under conditions of abnormal strain, necessitated by the war. Undoubtedly, abstemiousness, both in eating and drinking, however objectionable to our traditional ideas, has a virtue, taught to us through the sad years, now happily past.

Causes of Deaths.—Enteric Fever. From this disease there were 2 deaths. One was that of a patient from Newlay, a victim to an epidemic about which I shall speak later, the other occurred in a patient who had for some time previously lived in the Union Workhouse. For many years past Enteric Fever has rarely occurred in this district. In February, however, a case was notified in Newlay, and this was followed quickly by others, until in all 11 patients were infected, the inmates of three particular houses. Coincidentally other cases occurred just over the boundary in the Leeds area of Newlay. A common source, namely the milk supply, was suspected, and later was proved to be the source of infection. The Leeds Sanitary Office was informed of this, the infected milk found in their Area was confiscated, with the result that what might have been a serious epidemic, was speedily abated. All the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital, and, considering the violence of the epidemic, the mortality was small.

Measles.—There were 2 deaths from this disease. An epidemic involving all parts of the district, which necessitated the closure of most of the schools, occurred also in the early part of

the year. 107 cases were notified. As many of the cases were severe, the mortality was small.

Influenza, and its complications, accounted for 19 deaths. Never in the history of this district was there such a visitation of this disease. I roughly estimate that not more than a quarter of the houses escaped infection. Some cases were so violent that death occurred suddenly, before medical attention could be given, there being two such instances on which inquests were held. In other cases Septic Pneumonia occurred and produced death in the course of a few hours, often in persons who apparently had been in good health. Persons with a Tubercular tendency were especially picked out and pregnancy proved an unfavourable circumstance. Commencing in October, the epidemic reached its climax about the end of November. The nursing difficulties were tremendous, owing often to the numbers of the household down, and to the scarcity of nurses available. Lack of any hospital accommodation for the worst cases was greatly felt.

Tuberculosis in all forms accounted for 16 deaths apart from the cases who died in the local Sanatorium. There is no doubt that the chronic Tubercular subject suffered more than any class of patient caused through the restrictions of War Diet, chiefly because of the shortage of fats and sugar.

Infantile Death-rate.—There were 5 deaths of Infants under twelve months of age. The causes of death were: Bronchitis, 2; Dyspepsia, 1; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Prematurity, 1. The resulting Infantile death-rate is, therefore, 50 per 1,000 children born alive. This is the lowest Infantile death-rate on record for the district. The similar death-rate for England and Wales is 97. Below are the figures for the past five years:

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1914—87 | 1915—60 | 1916—76 | 1917—104 | 1918—50 |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|

The remaining causes of death are shewn in the appended table.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—Diphtheria.

There were 13 cases. These were distributed throughout the year, occurring in different parts of the district. The disease was never epidemic at any time. There were **no** deaths

Erysipelas.—1 case was notified.

Enteric Fever.—12 cases were notified, 11 of these were of the epidemic previously mentioned, the remaining case was separately imported into the district during the latter part of the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—1. This case was treated in the Leeds General Infirmary.

Tuberculosis.—Pulmonary and others, 3.

Measles.—107.

Whooping Cough.—8.

Of the Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever cases, all with the exception of 4 were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Infant Notification Act is carried out here by the help of the Nurses belonging to the District Nursing Association. They visit all infants shortly after birth, irrespective of class, and are well received by the mothers. Where an infant is not well, further visits are paid. During the latter part of the year, acting in concurrence with the West Riding County Council, an effort was made to procure a Nurse who would undertake this part of the work, together with the duties required of a School Nurse and Health Visitor, with the object of having a Resident Nurse in the district, who would be capable of the combined offices. Owing, however, to the scarcity of Nurses, there was a poor response to the advertisements issued, and as an appointment made, proved later to be unsatisfactory, this scheme has had to be abandoned until a more favourable date.

Sanitary Conditions of the Township have suffered during the years of the war. The question of obtaining labour for the Scavenging, particularly for the emptying of ashpits, has

been most difficult. Lately there has been some improvement in this respect, and it is to be hoped that the pre-war standard of this work will shortly be reached. The disposal of refuse has been a great difficulty, made greater by the partial breakdown of the Destructor which is still in need of certain repairs. In consequence of this, tipping has again had to be resorted to. Estimates for the necessary repairs have been obtained and it is to be hoped that the Destructor will again be in full working order.

Housing.—For several years past there has been a shortage of houses in this district. No new houses have been erected, and there are no empty houses. It is impossible to deal with cases of over-crowding. The need for further building is urgent. It is proposed to take advantage of the New Housing Law, both by the erection of houses by the Urban District Authority, and also by a private scheme under the Public Utility Section.

Water Supply.—There has been a sufficient amount of water in the reservoirs of the Authority to supply the district. Unfortunately, however, a deficiency of the maintenance of pressure in the mains serving the higher portions of the Township, mentioned in previous reports, has increased. This is due to the furring up of the old main and it is evident to the Committee who have given the matter much consideration, that a new main will have to be laid at the earliest opportunity, before the defect is remedied.

Closet Accommodation.—The conversion of privies into water closets has been greatly interfered with during the war: only four were reconstructed in the past year. There are still 34 privies with open middens, and 134 privies with covered middens in the district. The number of water closets is now 1,384, and there are 19 waste water closets.

Having passed the greatest difficulties of the war, I hope the conversion of these defective places will continue at a greater rate than hitherto.

I am, yours faithfully,

HENRY BAILEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death during the Year 1918.

| | | | | | Males | Females |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-------|---------|
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 9 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 7 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Other Tuberculosis Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 |
| Rheumatic Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Organic Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 8 |
| Pneumonia (all Forms) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Congenital Debility... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Violence, apart from suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| Other Defined Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 13 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | | Totals | 54 | 59 |
| | | | | | <hr/> | |

SANITARY DISTRICT OF HORSFORTH.

| Cases notified or otherwise ascertained. | | | | | | | | | | | | Cases removed to Hospital. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--------|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|----------|------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------|------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|---------|
| Smallpox. | Cholera | Plague | Diphtheria and Mem. | Erysipelas | Fevers | | | | | Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. | Polio myelitis. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | Tuberculous Pulmonary. | Other forms of Tuberculosis | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Small-pox. | Diphtheria. | Scarlet Fever. | Enteric Fever | Others. |
| | | | | | Scarlet. | Typhus. | Enteric. | Relapsing. | Continued. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | 1 | | 13 | | 13 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | 107 | 8 | | 12 | 11 | 11 | | |

